Safety in mining industry

*33. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce new safety measures in mining industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following proposals are under consideration of the Government:

(i) Proposal for amendment of the Mines Act, 1952

The Government is currently considering a comprehensive proposal for amendment of the Mines Act to facilitate enforcement of the safety measures contained therein. The main features of the proposal are:

- Introduction of mining audit by accredited external persons/ organisations.

- Bringing the manufacturers of mining equipment and consultants employed in the mines under the ambit of the Mines Act to make them also responsible for deficiencies in safety practices.

- Enhancement of penalties for contravention of the Mines Act. The penalties now in force were fixed during promulgation of the Mines Act in 1952 and these are meagre by present day standards.

(ii) Framing of separate regulations for opencast mines.

In view of substantial production from opencast mines, a separate regulation covering all types of opencast mines has been framed which is now under consideration of the Government.